

## Nonprofits ask for more money in state budget

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BY PAUL HUGHES  
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HARTFORD — Nonprofit agencies warned again Monday of dire consequences if the next state budget doesn't include more money for them.

Without more state funding, members of the Connecticut Community Providers Association say, staff and service cuts will result in private agencies that serve close to 500,000 clients in all 169 towns and cities.

The coalition of social service agencies is urging Gov. M. Jodi Rell and legislative leaders to provide the \$150 million that they are requesting.

Rell and legislative leaders opened budget negotiations last week. The regular session ends June 6.

The community providers association says the competing two-year budget plans that Rell and majority Democrats proposed fall short.

The group said the governor's budget provided almost no increases to cover rising costs, and the Democrats provided a 3 percent increase in the first year, and nothing in the second.

Representatives of several social service agencies said on Monday that neither budget comes close to keeping pace with health care, energy and other rising costs.

"Our landlords don't care what the state pays," said Diane Manning, president and CEO of United Services, a private provider that serves Eastern Connecticut.

The community providers association is asking for increases of 7 percent in the first year and 5 percent in the second year of the next state budget.

Community providers offer a variety of services to children and adults with mental illness, developmental and physical disabilities and drug and alcohol problems.

The agencies also run food pantries, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters and sexual assault crisis services.